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Commission on the Status of Women
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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Angola,* Benin, Cape Verde, Ghana,** Israel,** Mali** and Mexico: revised draft resolution**

Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, in particular the aim of the Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS,[1]

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution S-26/2 of 27 June 2001, entitled "Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS", adopted at its twenty-sixth special session, held in New York from 25 to 27 June 2001,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 57/299 of 20 December 2002, entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS",

Recalling the agreed conclusions adopted at its forty-fifth session, entitled "Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)",[2]

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* On behalf of the Southern African Development Community and in accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

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[1] See General Assembly resolution 55/2, para. 19.

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 1* (E/2001/99), resolution 2001/5.

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Recalling also its resolution 46/2 of 15 March 2002, entitled "Women, the girl child and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)",

Deeply concerned that the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, through its devastating scale and impact, constitutes a global emergency, and that it disproportionately affects women and girls, and emphasizing that violence against women and girls as well as social, cultural, biological and economic factors can increase their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS,

1. *Stresses* that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and emphasizes that the advancement of women and girls is key to reversing the pandemic;

2. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by relevant actors, including civil society, to continue to implement the commitments on HIV/AIDS contained in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[3] and to work towards effectively reflecting in their national policies and strategies the gender dimension of the pandemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the Declaration;

3. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to empower women and strengthen women's economic independence, and to protect and promote the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in order to allow them to protect themselves from HIV infection;

4. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify efforts to challenge gender stereotypes and attitudes and gender inequalities in relation to HIV/AIDS and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys;

5. *Encourages* the continued collaboration of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations agencies and programmes and other international organizations to address and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, in particular in the context of emergency situations and as part of humanitarian efforts, and to address the growing links between HIV/AIDS and other programmes, including humanitarian programmes;

6. *Calls upon* all Governments to take measures to ensure that the necessary resources are made available, particularly from donor countries, and also from national budgets, in line with the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;[3]

7. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made to date towards the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and urges further contributions to sustain the Fund, and also calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

8. *Welcomes* the ongoing work by the United Nations system in providing widespread information on the gender dimension of the pandemic and raising awareness about the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV/AIDS;

9. *Calls for* enhanced efforts by all relevant actors to include a gender perspective in the development of HIV/AIDS programmes and policies and in the

[3] General Assembly resolution S-26/2.

training of personnel involved in implementing such programmes, including through focusing on the role of men and boys in addressing HIV/AIDS;

10. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV/AIDS, young people and civil society actors in addressing the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in his reports on HIV/AIDS, to take a gender perspective into account.